

Standards and Assessment Update — 2000

Questions and Answers about English Language Development Assessment

Will the ELD test be "secure" like the Stanford 9? If yes, then would using items from the current LAS violate that principle?

Yes, the ELD test will be secure because the test forms will consist in part of items from a pool of LAS items developed over the last 25 years. Examinees will not know which items from this pool will appear on the form they are taking. Test forms will also include new items developed specifically to address the ELD standards.

Will the ELD test exempt an ELL student from testing in the English matrix or local curriculum assessments?

The ELD test will be in addition to other state-required tests. At this time ELD test results will not be used to exempt students from the Stanford 9 or the SABE/2. Whether ELL students may be exempted from local curriculum assessments is a local decision to be made by individual schools and/or districts.

The ELD tests are to assess students' progress in acquiring fluency in English. The Stanford 9 and the SABE/2 assesses students' academic achievement in various content areas tested in English and in Spanish, respectively.

How will student growth be determined? Will the test report if a student has met the standards? Will this be based on grade level or time in program?

The scoring and reporting design for the ELD test is still under development. However, in general terms, growth will be determined using the ELD proficiency levels identified in the ELD standards for each grade span. Each student's proficiency level will be determined by the grade in which he/she is enrolled, not by time in program.

Will every school use the same English proficiency designation and reclassification criteria for ELLs?

Yes. This will be a statewide program for all English language learners.

Will the new ELD assessment replace the current state-approved language proficiency tests?
Yes.

How do we transition from old ELD assessments (e.g., IPT, BSM) to the new ELD assessment? Must it be done immediately?

The change will be made as soon as the ELD exam is ready. This is expected to occur in the 2000-2001 school year. No phase-in is planned at the state level. The Education Code would allow districts to continue to administer other exams locally in addition to the ELD test.

Are districts with few ELL students (2-3) required to give the ELD test?

Yes. The test is required for all ELL students in the state regardless of the number of ELL students in any given school or district.

Did the State Board of Education adopt instructional materials that are aligned to both English Language Arts and the ELD standards?

There has been no specific adoption of materials linked to the ELD standards.

Will the state pay districts for administration, personnel, and/or scoring costs for ELD testing?

The state will provide the testing materials, scoring, and reporting for the test. Administering the test is the responsibility of the district.

Will districts be charged for the cost of scoring the test or reporting the results?

No. This is a state testing program, and the state through its contractor will provide test materials and scoring and reporting services.

Will ELLs be required to take the LAS in addition to the ELD test?

No.

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Will a random selection of schools or all schools be involved in field testing the ELD test?

Field-testing will be done with a sample of districts and schools. All schools and districts will not be included, and all ELLs within a school or district may not be included.

Will an orientation meeting for ELD testing for districts be provided?

Orientation meetings will be planned and conducted by the California Department of Education and its contractor.

How many forms of the ELD test will be available?

Four levels of the test will be available, with new forms available each year. The exact number of forms is yet to be determined.

What is the research-based evidence that leads to teaching reading concurrently with listening/speaking skills?

Teaching listening, speaking, reading, and writing concurrently is a recognized method of teaching foreign languages. English as a Second Language constitutes foreign language instruction for ELLs.